

Point Three



The Torch magazine
February 1982 10p



THE DEBATE GOES ON

(pages 12-15)

Point Three

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Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Point Three is available from the Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Single copies 10p. Annual subscription: £1.20 including postage.



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

Cover Picture

Last summer's Southern Region 'Touring Show' visited playschemes, parish halls and village greens in Southampton and the New Forest.

Personal View

THE CROWN OF THE YEAR

I am writing this when Christmas is well and truly over. I was assured of this in the supermarket yesterday. We are still in the throes of Winter and Spring seems very far behind, but the manager of the market is a business man and already has his Easter eggs on display. Commercialism certainly does disrupt the meaning of religious feasts. How can one consider Easter eggs before Ash Wednesday and the discipline of Lent?

The ignoring of the true meaning of the feasts and the necessary preparation for them seems to be a British disease. We concentrate on the necessary food for the occasion, but a feast that has no traditional fare is ignored or even unknown to some people. It is so unimportant that even the name can be changed: Whitsun becomes Spring Bank Holiday! We ignore Lent but pay £100 at a health farm to learn self discipline!

Strangely enough the so called 'backward' countries still practise the discipline of Lent and the solemnity of Holy Week. The latter draws many tourists and gives them food for thought, even when they do not fully understand what is taking place. These religious ceremonies are a feature of most Southern countries. In the cities they are conducted with precision, but for me the most fascinating are those in the small towns.

Jaen in Salamanca is such a one. The town is dominated by a castle, a mountain and churches. Lent and Holy Week are kept in the old way. When Shrove Tuesday is over and Ash Wednesday has dawned, discipline starts and worldly pleasures are curbed.

At the beginning of Holy Week the colourful processions begin. They come from the various churches. When night falls, the town fills with black clothed citizens moving slowly and sadly through the streets carrying great lanterns. Each day brings a different tableau of the Passion, garlanded with flowers – red carnations, geraniums and vivid pinks. The tableaux used to be carried on men's shoulders but now they are put on wheeled platforms hidden under long purple cloths. The most unusual features, for someone like me, are the black clothed, bare foot, candle carrying women and the white robed, conical hatted, chain dragging penitents. The whole procession is headed by solemn music. One whole day of the week is given to silence.

The climax comes on Good Friday morning. On that day at 4 am there is a ceremony special to Jaen. It is termed 'the bringing out of Grandfather' and centres round an event of centuries ago. It was Holy Week and an old man went begging in the streets. He knocked at the door of a house on the old road to Granada. He was asked in and the lady of the house gave him food. He sat on the patio to eat and admired the trunk of a fallen tree which lay there. He asked if he might be allowed to make a carving out of it. To do so he would need to be shut into an empty room undisturbed for three days. This was done. At the end of the three days the room was opened. All the town came for the 'releasing of Grandfather', as he had been named. The room was empty; but lying there was a beautiful carving of Our Lord carrying His Cross to Golgotha. This is the carving brought out of the Cathedral every Good Friday at 4 pm. The townsfolk gather in the Cathedral Plaza, usually under bright, white, moonlight. The Flamenco mourning song of the death of the Lord is sung, and at the end of the singing there is a silence so deep, so meaningful, it cannot be described. Never before had I experienced the activity of silence. It made clear the words of Thomas Merton '*... by spells of silence ordinary Christian lay people are able for a space to achieve oneness with God*'.

Words are instruments, given to us by God: they can be used for good or evil. They can heal, they can also slay. They can express love, they can also express hate. They can pray, but they can also come between us and God.

Older generations knew the power of words and feared them. We need from time to time to rest from the responsibility of them. When we reach Holy Week we shall have recalled His long discipline of silence in the wilderness.

For those whose work is words, periods of silence can be compared to earth under snow – purifying. When consulted about 'what to give up for Lent' one Church paper suggested 'let's give up words'. A crazy idea in a world where we are swamped by them – even in Church. Yet we could start with the psalmist's prayer '*... set Thou a guard upon my lips*' or an even more recently found prayer before a crucifix. '*By Thy thorn crowned head cleanse my thoughts. By Thy parched lips, curb my cruel tongue.*' We could seek an old type retreat, in place of group discussions. We could pray for the gift of stillness.

So when we reach Easter, the feast of all feasts, we will at least have tried to prepare a worthy offering of praise for this 'Crown of the Church's year'.

Megan John

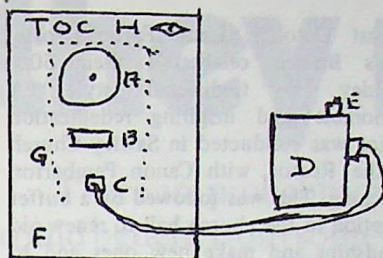
The Wider Family

India

We get very little direct news from India but we have just had an interesting news letter from Elizabeth Davies of Abergavenny (author of the Pannikampatti article in our July issue). She has heard from Soundara Pandiyan that the well progresses and that hospital building work is to start soon. Speaking of their Home of the Aged, Soundara Pandiyan says, 'By the grace of God the Home is almost full now. We have admitted new persons and during the past year, five elderly persons have passed into glory. We are now engaged in starting a dairy ...'

Australia

Bill Brown writes from W Australia to tell us that their Area Executive have moved from temporary premises into their new HQ. They have completed the first batch of a new design flashing light



and audible warning system and are busily fitting them: the light is fixed to the external wall with a cable running to the bedside battery and 'on-off' switch.

Bill and Freddie Mills are also in the middle of an intensive publicity and recruiting drive in their district.

- 'A' LIGHT
- 'B' BUZZER
- 'C' CONNECTOR
- 'E' SWITCH
- 'D' 6V BATTERY BOX
- 'F' WHITE MELAMINE BACK BD
- 'G' ACRYLIC COVER

New Zealand

We have just seen the autumn newsletter from Hon Commissioner Philip Liner. He reports little growth but a very great deal of service at a local level. Auckland's 'Lightline' is expanding rapidly, and Dunedin is moving into this field of work; Nelson continues to run its hospital radio and library services; Wellington and Tawa continue their work with 'Lightline' and the IHC Hospital at Levin. Philip sent a Toc H greeting to HM Queen Elizabeth on her arrival in New Zealand and received the following reply: 'I am commanded by the Queen to ask you to convey her warm thanks to all members of Toc H in New Zealand for their kind welcome ... Both Her Majesty and The Duke of Edinburgh are delighted to be back here again, and greatly appreciate your message'.

Southern Africa

Alec Bullivant sent us some comments on our own 'Resources' debate just before Central Council. It's interesting to notice how close our two experiences are and how nearly our thinking coincides. Their present emphasis is to combine dedicated service from key members and HQ and field staff. Their present field staff is reduced to one Black officer working primarily with the Black community but keeping closely in touch with the White membership. They are busy building up a national team of key members to work towards building a non-racial Movement and extending existing expressions of Toc H. Financially, the aim is 'to make

Toc H Southern Africa self supporting without dipping too deeply into the pockets of members, and to collect funds from other sources, both to cover administration expenses and to assist members to carry out their projects'. Alec adds: 'I regard our links with Toc H in the UK, as well as in other countries, as vital to the family concept ... In particular, we value the International Newsletter and the Wider Family page in Point Three as an exchange of news and views and to create a better understanding of our problems and appreciation of our activities'.

Point Three Branch Orders

1. Branches will know that the invoices for Point Three copies have to be prepared and sent out in March so that orders can be dispatched from April onwards. If you want to change the number of copies you have from April 1982 to March 1983, please let us know your new requirement by the end of February.

2. About one in five Branches receiving Point Three are now contributing in whole or in part to the cost of mailing them. Now that postal charges have gone up yet again, your contributions are most valuable. Are you paying postage on your Point Threes? Please examine your finances and your consciences to see what you can do to help in these particularly hard times.



Two Mudeford young ladies selling enamel on copper miniatures at the Bournemouth and Christchurch annual Toc H bazaar. Members had the novel experience of having more goods to sell than they had space! Ena Sorlie and her family alone had dressed more than 60 dolls and made 80 other toys. The bazaar, combined with an art show, was opened by Toc H President Revd Kenneth Bloxham.

Photo: Evening Echo, Bournemouth

In Brief...

● We have just seen in a Dundee newspaper, an interesting account of a live radio link-up involving one of our Toc H hospital radio services. On a busy Saturday the Toc H Radio Tayside Road Show was in full swing in Dundee's Overgate, from 10 am to 4 pm, with six duty disc-jockeys each taking one broadcasting hour. For the first four hours, there was a live link-up with three hospitals, during which requests and dedications from the shopping public were broadcast for patients, staff and friends in the hospitals.

● Last month's cover picture showed the first major project mounted by the West Somerset Group. The planning, designing and painting of a giant 'Snakes and Ladders' board on the playground of a Dr Barnardos' school for physically handicapped children presented the group with many problems. The leading painter on the rough and uneven surface was a member with two artificial legs, who boasted that he was the only member of the party who ended the project without sore knees! They have undertaken a series of interesting and novel projects since. Peter Smith, the Group's leader, tells us that it is a loose and informal grouping of some 12 'youngish' people with growing influence in the area. They began to meet under the guidance of staff member Revd Keith Beck only last April. From the beginning, their membership has been made up of a mixture of men and women in the best Toc H tradition. Two of their members have now joined the local Branch and another two are probationers there. Another is an enthusiastic and regular visitor to a neighbouring Branch. They aim as a

Group not only to bring on new members for existing Branches and offer a range of help in their own community but also to give advice and practical help on projects to any Toc H Branch within reach. Already, members of the Group have visited and spoken at a number of Branch meetings and at the Region's annual autumn gathering. We shall watch with great interest the progress and extension of this bright, lively and very outgoing Group.

● Last October, Long Eaton (Notts) Men's Branch celebrated their 50th birthday in traditional style. A memorable and inspiring rededication service was conducted in Sawley Church by the Rector, with Canon Pemberton preaching. This was followed by a buffet reception in the church hall to renew old friendships and make new ones and to listen to a fine address by Revd Crispin White. The 140 people responding to the invitation to share in this celebration included District and Regional representatives, present and past Branch members and many of the friends who have helped the Branch over the years. The Branch writes to say, 'we start in good heart towards our next 50 years'.

● We have just seen the latest newsletter from Springfields District Branch who report good attendances at recent meetings. The letter is full of news and good cheer — an excellent attempt to keep members in touch with each other and one which augurs well for the future of this District Branch. I was particularly impressed by the fact that the District is keeping contact with those members of Branches which have closed: indeed, the letter records an example of the splendid Toc H service still being given by four members of the former West Wickham Ladies Branch. Well done, Springfields.

● Fakenham (Norfolk) Men's Branch have written to update us on some of their many activities. Last autumn, with District Council approval, they donated a new public notice board to their Town Council. At the formal presentation, Fakenham's Town Clerk praised the continuing work of Toc H in the town. Each year, in the summer months, the Branch has a bookstall running every Saturday morning. The main — and successful — purpose of this exercise is to make friends in the town but it has incidentally raised £800 for Toc H work. In 1980, the Branch had a Warden Manor award to help set up a 'flashing light' scheme for the housebound: this is now running well and is being extended. Each Christmas Eve, the Branch organises a Carol Concert in the market square with some 200 people — singers, bandsmen and local ministers — taking an active part: this year it was the turn of the Salvation Army to lead the occasion. Branch members in 1981 launched a new project. They put up hyacinths and, at the appropriate time, deliver them to lonely and housebound people. They hope that, as they watch the plant grow, these folk will see that someone is thinking of them 'through the dark days'.

● St Austell (Cornwall) Women's Branch celebrated their 40th birthday last November in the home of founder member Ethel Kelly. They ate together and shared in the Ceremony of Light and prayers of thanksgiving and rededication. But they were determined to make it an outward looking evening, not just an exercise in nostalgia. Trevor Sizer gave a lavishly illustrated account of a summer holiday at Alison House given for 16 young people suffering from muscular dystrophy. It was a wonderful evening and members and friends went away 'enriched by another glimpse of Toc H involvement in a work of compassion'.

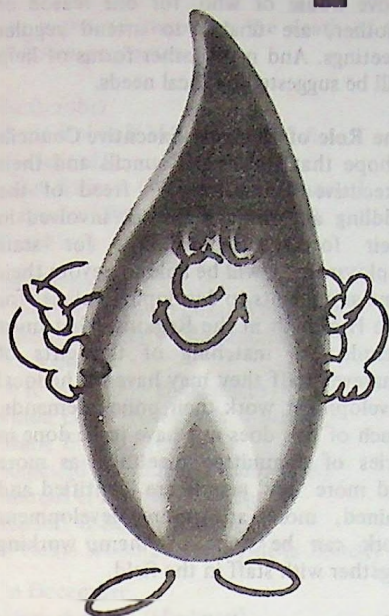


Ridgeway school pupils joined Swindon District in a 15 mile sponsored walk to raise funds for a baby's resuscitation unit at Princess Margaret Hospital.



Melton & Charnwood District have a number of wheelchairs which they lend free of charge for short or long term use. This latest one was presented to Loughborough Joint Branch by the town's College students from funds raised in their annual Rag Appeal.

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BRITISH GAS HOME SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The Home Service Adviser,
The Home Economist, British Gas,
Marketing Division,
326 High Holborn, London,
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BRITISH GAS





Photo: Scott Shaw

Adrian Dudman

From the General Secretary

Branches in difficulties; they can undertake the pastoral care of members who are sick or in trouble; they can ensure that we keep in touch with members who move house or who, for one reason or another, are unable to attend regular meetings. And many other forms of help will be suggested by local needs.

The Role of Regional Executive Councils
I hope that Regional Councils and their Executive Committees – freed of the fiddling and worrying work involved in their former responsibility for staff deployment – will be able to devote their time and talents to developing policies for Toc H growth in the Regions. That must include the matching of the gifts of whatever staff they may have to the local development work their policy demands. Much of this does not have to be done in series of committee meetings: as more and more 'key' people are identified and trained, more and more development work can be done by them, working together with staff in the field.

Of course, we shall face a number of problems as we try to implement this thinking in the months and years ahead. We shall need to deal sensitively and considerately with those who are to leave us. We must give time and effort to easing the remaining staff into their new roles and into new relationships. The central deployment of staff will involve us in continuing discussion with Regions and Districts and will throw up financial and other problems which we must sort out together as we go along. A whole new set of relationships has to be built up with care and patience. We need to think hard about the old and very valuable concept of staff working in pairs – despite the obvious difficulties. But the CEC and its Personnel Committee have devoted much time and thought and prayer to this whole question and we are confident that we are moving in the right direction.

AED

I am at last redeeming my promise to share with you some of the Personnel Committee's thoughts on full time Toc H staff. This must bring us into difficult and delicate areas such as the monitoring of staff and the evaluation of their work as well as starting to define our various responsibilities.

The Role of Full Time Staff

- a. The first important area of staff work is 'training' in the widest sense of that much abused word – training not only or mainly by precept, but by example and by sharing their work with others who, as they grow in confidence, can take over parts of the job. This selection and training applies particularly to key members in the area – those with the potential to become local leaders.
2. Staff must constantly be encouraging members, inspiring them to move forward in their Toc H thinking and work. This is difficult to express in words but clearly it is helped by the staff thinking that comes from their wider contacts and it can be demonstrated only by the staff example of enthusiasm and deep commitment.
- c. Each member of staff has a personal responsibility for extending Toc H, especially by helping members to new forms of service and by carrying the message to new generations.

None of this can be done by staff working in isolation. It is essential that staff work with other members wherever possible and that they ensure that Branches and District members know just what they are trying to do.

The Role of the Personnel Committee

All members of staff are accountable for their work to the Personnel Committee: that Committee is answerable to the membership, through its Central Executive, for monitoring and evaluating the performance of paid staff. Additionally, the Committee is responsible – and it takes this responsibility very seriously – for encouraging staff and helping them sort out priorities in their work. To this end,

over the past year, members of the Committee have been interviewing in depth every full time member of staff. Following this, they have decided that eight of our present staff should leave us for other work. I must emphasise that this decision implies no criticism of the contribution made so far by these members of staff. Each case has been decided by a careful assessment of the suitability of the individual to carry out the newly defined role. It is important to understand that, in reaching this conclusion, the Personnel Committee has not been working within any set financial limits. Indeed, they have agreed that no block is to be placed on recruiting new staff should men or women of the right calibre present themselves. In the course of our thinking, we took note that not all members of staff could or should expect a full career within Toc H: movement in and out is sometimes of great importance. In particular, it has never been envisaged that clergy would normally do more than serve with us for a period and then carry their Toc H experience back with them into parish life.

The Role of Members

Regional and District offices – where they exist – plus honorary staff and other volunteers have an important positive role to play. For example, they can effectively handle the administration involved in updating membership records; often they can give support and help to



Last summer, Hero and Miep de Graaf came from Holland to spend a holiday in N Wales and to visit old seafaring friends on Merseyside. They stayed with Hans Duif (Llanarmon-yn-Ial's jobmaster) and his wife Jessie. Hero and Miep had never met Toc H and were greatly impressed by its aims and activities. In appreciation for the hospitality of N Wales, Miep has handstitched a superb Toc H flag. This flag now has a place of honour in the Llanarmon Branch Room – a beautifully converted cowshed which doubles as a local community centre and is financially self supporting.

The picture shows the Branch Secretary (Bob Harvey) with Hans Duif in front of their new flag.

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In October

Revd Robin E May (Wanstead & Woodford)
Alice Switzer (Warwickshire District)
Raymond Wheeler (Whetstone & Finchley)

In November

Dorothy I Arden (East Worthing)
Elizabeth Cherry (Richmond – Yorkshire)
A K 'Ken' Doy (Fakenham)
Hilda Lowe (Newcastle – Staffs)
Marie E Miller (Cardiff)
Reginald S Purchase (Wellington)
Marcus G P Pyle (Uxbridge)
Robert W Smith (Ashford)
E Nellie Woombs (Ashby-de-la-Zouch)

In December

Mary A Brace (Hackney)
Lilla Dickens (Anstey)

East Worthing Branch report the death in November of one of their founder members – **Dorothy Irene Arden**. Dorothy first joined the old Worthing

Central Women's Branch in 1932. There and later in East Worthing, she was always a loyal, faithful and totally reliable member who held in turn all major Branch Offices. Dorothy approached all her work in Toc H, in her local church and in the community, with dedication. She will be greatly missed by very many people.

Fakenham (Norfolk) Branch write '*with much sadness and regret*' to tell us of the death in November of their Pilot and founder member, **Ken Doy**. He never regained consciousness after suffering a third stroke four days earlier. Despite some physical incapacity following earlier, minor strokes, Ken retained his great love of the Movement and his Branch. His very last outing was to attend the unveiling of a public notice presented to the town by the Branch in the autumn. Local newspaper reports indicate Ken's deep involvement in the town's life. Ken will be remembered too, by all other lovers of Warden Manor. The Branch Secretary writes, '*We shall all miss him and his help greatly*'.

Frederick Percy 'Chummy' James died on 18 November 1981. Chummy joined Great Yarmouth Branch in its earliest days and helped significantly in extending the Movement in the surrounding district. He played a large part in starting the Ormesby Joint Branch and was its Chairman for three years. After moving to Repps he entered fully into the life of the village and was a member of a number of organisations. The great number of people who attended his funeral service gave evidence of 'Chummy's' wide interests and the esteem in which he was held.

JD

With great sadness we record the death on 6 December of **Miss Mary Ann Brace**, sister of Jenny Venes who works at Mark 3, and a member of Hackney Joint Branch since 1968. Our report tells us that Ann was attacked and killed while out walking near her home.

We give thanks for their lives

A quick check before the rush starts! Helpers at the Toc H Jumble Sale in Tavistock Church Hall.



West of England Newspapers Ltd.



Photo: Basingstoke Gazette

Knitting in the public eye! Toc H and Age Concern in their 1981 sponsored 'Knit-in' at Chute House, Basingstoke.



Photo: Midweek

The Toc H team sets off on its sponsored wheelchair push in St Albans. They completed the 10 mile journey in five hours and raised £120 towards the cost of a 'mini-handi'.

A NEW KIND OF PROJECT

(A joint venture between Toc H and a University Education Department provides a new kind of experience)

Last summer, eight students and a lecturer in educational psychology from the School of Education at Exeter University met with three Toc H members to start a specially prepared programme of activities. This report is an attempt to evaluate the experience from the students' point of view.

The School of Education at Exeter University is the second largest in the country, taking 800 students working at a variety of levels. It is fortunate enough to be able to boast a fine collection of educational facilities and resources, and it prides itself on turning out students trained in the theory and practice of education. Students may train for the Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Philosophy, Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy degree qualifications. In addition, many students study for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), which involves one year of full time postgraduate study.

One of the course requirements for PGCE students involves devising a personal programme of 'practical educational value' for a week in June which is set aside as General Course Activities Week. The aim of this week is to allow students the opportunity of experiencing a worthwhile activity which is relevant to their interests and which would not normally be available to them.

It was at the same time that the PGCE Special Education group was looking for suitable activities that Trevor Sizer (Toc H South Western Region) offered to provide the facilities of Neathern Brock Intermediate Treatment Centre in

Tavistock. Neathern Brock IT Centre is run by the National Children's Home and is pleasantly situated in Tavistock, overlooking Dartmoor. The premises form an ideal small project centre, being fully equipped to sleep and cater for 14 people. There is a lounge suitable for meetings, a games room, an office and a fully equipped kitchen.

Recently, Neathern Brock has become available to Toc H during those periods when the centre is not being used by children. Trevor, eager to use this facility and to establish a link with the University, suggested that a week of activities be planned for the group, based at the centre and designed to fulfil the requirements of Activities Week. Trevor proceeded to organise, in association with Dr David Evans (lecturer in educational psychology), a five day programme of visits, walks, seminars and talks by visiting speakers related to issues in the fields of child care, education and special education.

Thus, after the initial contact had been provided by myself, the resulting project became a joint venture between Dr Evans and the group of students, and Toc H South Western Region led by Trevor. The programme proved to be varied, flexible and informative whilst also being intellectually stimulating. The final product was a most worthwhile group experience in which friendly debate, lively wit and willingness to participate played a major role.

Programme

Day 1 *Arrival and introductions*
Visit: *The Dartmoor Accommodation Scheme*
Talk: *Intermediate Treatment at Neathern Brock*

Day 2
Talk: *The Fostered Child*
Visit: *Morwellham Quay Industrial Museum*
Visit: *Devonport Dockyard Children's Home*

Day 3
Walk: *Widgery Cross (Dartmoor)*
Visits: *Beckley Family Unit and Rowans Centre*
Talk: *Non-accidental Injury in Children (child abuse)*

Day 4
Visit: *Molly Owen Adult Training Centre*
Visit: *Gateway Club for Mentally Handicapped Adults*

Day 5
Seminar: *Toc H - Philosophy, Ethos and Involvement. Summing up and departure*

The first activity after settling in was a visit to Princetown to see how the Dartmoor Accommodation Scheme operates. This project consists of an old Methodist church converted into a short-stay hostel for wives visiting their husbands in Dartmoor Prison. The isolation of the prison makes visiting difficult, and the hostel aims to ease the process of visiting and to help the difficult relationship between prisoner and family. After looking round, and having chatted with a prison probation officer, the group returned to the centre for the evening talk on the specialised form of intermediate treatment at Neathern Brock. The team of four provide a special form of preventive training for 12-16 year old children who display early delinquent tendencies.

The second day started with an excellent video and talk on the fostered child by a local training officer involved with foster parents. The talk was comprehensive and



All photos: Trevor Sizer

by Edward Thompson

most informative, dealing with the legal, practical and emotional aspects of fostering and adoption. The group was also made aware of the social background of fostered children, patterns of fostering and the work of the National Foster Care Association. A sightseeing trip to Morwellham Quay industrial museum (including a mini-train ride into one of the copper mines) followed, providing a vivid picture of the industrial and cultural heritage of the Tamar valley. This brief insight served as a pleasant break before returning to the Devonport Dockyard Children's Home to take a group of children for a walk in Lydford Gorge. The children then entertained us with supper at the home.

The third day's activities comprised a walk on Dartmoor in pleasant sunshine, a revealing slide show and talk on child abuse, and a trip to Plymouth where half the group visited the Beckley ESN Family Unit and the other half visited the Rowans Centre, a residential and facility centre for handicapped people.

On the fourth day, the group visited the Molly Owen Adult Training Centre in Tavistock, responsible for the training of mentally handicapped adults over 16, to take a look at the industrial workshops. We saw the trainees packing toothbrushes and making polystyrene packing before returning in the evening to join in the activities of the Gateway Club, a regular youth club organised and based at the centre. This proved a most worthwhile, though taxing, day.

The final day provided an opportunity for a discussion of Toc H, its organisation, role and aims. Intensive debate followed a talk and slide show, and the entire philosophy and ethos of the Movement were examined from every

viewpoint. Finally the group split up and everyone went their separate ways.

It should be said that everyone in the Exeter group thought the week to be a worthwhile and enjoyable experience, and an excellent project for Activities Week. Having received individual reports from the students involved, I can report on behalf of the group in saying that the programme was interesting, and indeed valuable from the educational point of view. Some items were clearly more popular than others, for example the Lydford Gorge walk, the visit to Rowans and the talks on child abuse and the fostered child were very popular, whilst the talk on intermediate treatment and the visit to Princetown were less popular. This is of no consequence, since the week as a whole from the students' point of view was without doubt worthwhile. The week was initially experimental because it was breaking new ground, but it has succeeded in paving the way for future contact between Toc H and the School of Education.

The project was essentially a mutual experience, with Toc H benefitting from the experience of a new kind of project and from the ideals of young trained educationalists, and the students benefitting from a set of experiences which were directly relevant to their knowledge and understanding of children and education. In addition, the students learned of Toc H, and Toc H simultaneously made more people aware of its aims. The link between Toc H and the School of Education which has been established promises much in the way of future contact and co-operation. Interesting possibilities for development include further similar projects, a Toc H student group at the University, and co-operative projects with different concepts and contents. Finally, on behalf of the students, I would like to thank Trevor Sizer for his enthusiasm and commitment in organising an excellent project, and also his two colleagues.

Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during November/December:

- 10 – Thurcroft (Rotheram) (j) Group
- 3 – Kent Weekend Projects (j)
- 2 – Watford (w)
- 1 – Crewkerne (j), Ealing (j), Hackney (j), Hild District, Kirkley (w), Launceston (j), Newport (Gwent) (w), Parkhurst (w), Rushden (m), Westham (w), Weymouth (j)

A warm welcome to 26 new members

Topic on Tape

As announced in January's *Point Three*, we shall be producing another special tape, continuing the earlier very successful resources debate throughout the Movement and at Central Council. This second special tape will go out to all Branches. Central Councillors and staff before Easter. Because of the work involved in its production, and the time we will all need to discuss it, we have arranged issue dates for the special tape, and the 1982 Topics on Tape, as follows:

To all Branches, Councillors and staff:
1 March (provisional), second special tape

To Topic on Tape subscribers:
24 May – Topic 29
'The Role of the Central Councillor'
6 September – Topic 30
'Friends in Need'
15 November – Topic 31
'Not Wanted'
Topic 32 'Marks and Houses' has been postponed until 1983.

To assist us in keeping costs down, please return unwanted tapes for erasing and re-use. If you retain any tapes, send 60p for each cassette. (Cheques made payable to Toc H).

There is still time to become a Topic on Tape subscriber for 1982. Just send us £1 with your name and address and we'll send you the topics above, in addition to the special tape, which is issued free.

We can also supply, for you to keep, a cassette of Revd John Hull's address at Central Council, price 75p, post paid.



A VOLUNTEER IN RURAL INDIA-2

by Derek Williams

India has made great strides in both industrial development and increasing agricultural production in the 34 years since she gained independence. However, with the population approaching 700 million, the 80% who live in villages have benefited little from these advances.



Big, multi-million pound projects (British Aid to India has amounted to £600 million during the past four years) have simply not reached the poorest people in rural areas, and have further aggravated the rich/poor, urban/rural divide. For a backward area like Kanhan Kshetra, AAVS is trying to encourage small scale, grass roots development. This means that the programmes are not run by experts in medicine, agriculture or education, but have a community involvement in which the villagers can decide for themselves the direction in which they want to go. A highly laudable approach, but very difficult to achieve in practice amongst people of little education and vision. Certain groups, such as the Harijans (Untouchables) and Tribals, have been oppressed and exploited economically

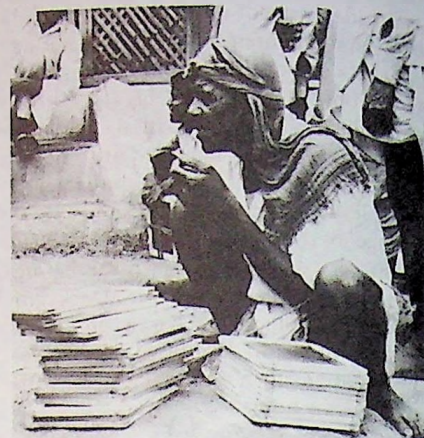


for so long that they are born into an institutionalised poverty from which they feel they have little chance of escaping. It is true that these scheduled castes and tribes (as they are called in official language) are entitled to many privileges from the Government: preferential grants and subsidies for their farms, stipends to enable their children to attend schools and vocational training courses, reservations for places in the Civil Service and Higher Education. Yet the poorest people in Kanhan Kshetra have been unable to avail themselves of these offers because of sheer ignorance of their rights and the indifference and corruptibility of the Government officers who rarely visit the area anyway.



When AAVS started its work, many of the villagers were apathetic and even suspicious about the prospect of a development scheme — they had received so many promises in the past from officials and landlords which had resulted in their being cheated of their land or legal rights. However, in the more receptive villages, AAVS began health, child care, education and income generation programmes with funding from several Western agencies (Oxfam, Action Aid, WCDS, Christian Children's Fund). It was very interesting to observe how easily money was forthcoming once the project had reached a certain size. Agencies are understandably wary of supporting a new venture, but the presence of a big name organisation does lend a good deal of credibility. Still, no agency intends to support a project indefinitely and the aim must be to pioneer development and encourage the Government to take an interest. This can be a drawn-out battle. The only High School in the area, for example, was run for 14 years by local contributions and great financial sacrifices on the part of the teachers before a full Government grant was allocated.

The advantages of grass roots development is that the social workers are



local men and women who obviously know the area and the people very well. They are in tune with the needs of the community because they are members of the community. However, because of the nature of the area the local recruits do tend to be people of meagre education (sometimes barely literate) not always well motivated (unemployment is high among rural youth so any job is welcome) and lacking a wider knowledge of the world beyond Kanhan river. Of course there were a few well educated English speakers on whom I was obviously dependent as a foreigner not conversant with either the local languages or customs. I was able to assist initially with English correspondence and general administration, and eventually play a part in training courses and monitoring schemes. My role was basically that of a catalytic agent: to encourage my Indian colleagues actually to carry out a task which they may have spent many days talking about but were strangely reluctant to do.

There was little point in undertaking tasks solely off my own back when the purpose was to develop a community spirit among the villagers themselves.

(To be continued)

In December Mrs Ivy Tovey received the Martin Kelly Award for outstanding service to the community in Addington. Ivy, now aged 73, has played the piano at parties for the elderly for the past 36 years. More than 23 years ago, she joined the Toc H concert party which became the Lamplighters.

Chippenham's Twin

by Reginald C Coates

During 1981, it was decided to twin the town of Chippenham with the town of La Flèche, Sarthe, France. This twinning has the support of the Chippenham Branch of Toc H and of several members as individuals.

Two years ago the Branch decided that emphasis should be placed on learning more about our mainland neighbours and, in the first instance, invited Richard Cottrell MEP to speak to us. Richard, the member for the Bristol Division, is well known in the area through his former career with HTV and he addressed the Branch in the very best traditions of fair mindedness at a time when some minor Common Market discussion with France was being described as a 'war' in certain newspapers.

The talk in the European Parliament was quickly followed by two talks on France by Jean-Phillipe and his wife Michelle Watbled, who spent a year in this country as exchange teachers, and an evening on his native Germany by Branch member George Bachmann.

Besides George, various other Branch members have contacts with towns on the mainland. One of the youngest of our members (Simon Perkins) has been working in Geneva for some time with his bank; another member (Rodney Ryall) assists his church with its exchanges with a church in Rehau, Germany; and others have made close friendships with French and Belgian people.

Last year Chippenham had another visitor

— Maxence Mulocher, a student of Agricultural Engineering at Lille University, who spent six months in the town as part of his sandwich course. He was soon to meet Branch member Reg Coates and, as a result of their friendship, became involved in some of the activities which the Branch supports, eg Chippenham Tapes for the Handicapped and Greathouse Cheshire Home. During the summer, his parents, Maxime a Vet in La Flèche, and Denise, a journalist for 'Le Maine Libre', met Reg, and the idea of twinning was born.

The aim of twinning is, of course, to involve all members of society, including the Council, Schools, Societies and Clubs, Churches and individuals. Following Mr and Mrs Mulocher's return to France, the next step was a letter from the Maire of La Flèche, Mr Jean Virlogeus, to the then Mayor of Chippenham, Mr Michael MacCartan, which suggested that some link should be formed between the two towns. This suggestion was put to meetings of the townsfolk of Chippenham, at which Toc H was formally represented, and the towns have now decided to proceed with the 'marriage', as soon as regular exchanges have been established. Both sides feel that the signing of a twinning document without having previously established real relationships would be an empty gesture.

With its 17,000 population, La Flèche is slightly smaller than Chippenham. As the crow flies, it is 278 miles from Chippenham and lies almost due south of Greenwich. Farming and fruit growing



Photo: Maxence Mulocher

The Town Hall of La Flèche — formerly the Château des Carmes (15 century).

are important industries, but there are factories, including the printing works for the Livre de Poche paperbacks. It is an educational centre with 6,000 school children, including the students at the Prytanée Militaire, set up by Napoleon to prepare boys for the Military Universities of France. Another feature is a small zoo set up by naturalist Jacques Bouillant after the war. Jacques is well known in France through his television appearances, and he has a close relationship with his animals. La Flèche is also an ideal centre for visits to see the Châteaux of the Loire.

Unlike organisations such as Rotary, Round Table, Lions, Scouts and Red Cross, Toc H has no direct equivalent in La Flèche, so contact for our members will be on a personal basis with Flèchois families. The secretary of the Comité de Jumelage is a nun, Sister Annette Bertrand, who teaches English in La Flèche. Sister Annette, whose command of English is excellent, has already visited Chippenham twice, and is helping to arrange contacts for both school children and adults. Visitors to her convent, the Institution Jeanne d'Arc, can be assured of a warm welcome and excellent English tea.

The aims of the twinning follow closely those of Toc H as set down in the Four Points of the Compass. Richard Cottrell, who has become a member of the Chippenham Association said: 'I have always been impressed by the remarkable quality of deep and personal friendship which these links invariably create. There is absolutely no substitute for this kind of association and they do break down a good deal of misunderstanding generated, largely by the media, between — in the case of Britain and France — two countries which are, no matter the difference in language and culture, actually just a few miles apart'.



Photo: Crowdon Advertiser

For your diary

Don't Forget!

Staff and CEC members of the former Women's Association are holding their reunion weekend at Alison House from 11 - 13 June 1981.

All enquiries and applications, please, to: Mrs M Berry, 'High Tor', 28 Vicarage Road, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 5HY.

The Old House

Central Councillor Jackie Davidson plans to run a visit to the Old House from 20 August to 30 August 1982. The total cost, to include travel from London and back, food and accommodation is expected to be about £85. Anyone interested — especially anyone willing to take his own car — should contact Jackie at: 33 Ingram Road, Gillingham ME7 1SB (Tel: 0634 (Medway) 575 802).

Holiday for the Elderly & Physically Handicapped

24 April - 1 May 1982

Southdown District needs two more volunteer helpers (preferably to include a driver for the minibus at our disposal). Volunteers will reside with our guests at a seafront hotel in Worthing and ensure that they enjoy a good break and a happy holiday. We are asking our sponsors to contribute £30 per guest and to kindly arrange transport to and from the hotel. We are raising all the other costs ourselves. Particulars from Cecil Wakely, 44 Chatsmore Crescent, Goring by Sea, Worthing BN12 5AA. Tel: Worthing (0903) 42611.



Photo: B D Brown

Charmouth (Dorset) Joint Branch have an almost round the year programme for entertaining handicapped children and providing outings for the housebound and lonely. They have a wonderful team of helpers and drivers and are delighted to see so many of their deprived friends appear year after year.

Open Forum

Positive Discrimination

Although Lord Scarman's terms of reference were drawn up specifically to consider the causes and implications of the Brixton riots, his report did make certain recommendations which covered a much wider field.

One of these is 'positive discrimination'. This is possibly an unfortunate choice of words, but nevertheless the intention is quite clear, namely to redress the balance between black and white and give the former greater opportunities in education, housing and employment over the next few years.

At the last Central Council, during the debate on the resolution concerning our involvement with Barclays Bank in South Africa, at least one speaker mentioned that, despite the principles of our Movement, one never sees a black face at any level — Branch, District, Regional or National. Is it therefore not

time for some 'positive discrimination' to be introduced into Toc H? Perhaps we do have black members in the UK: if so, where are they? In over 33 years in this Movement I personally have never seen or met any. If there are such people, perhaps somebody would say so and indicate in what part of the country they participate. If there are none, then perhaps Branches might consider ways and means by which our black friends could be introduced into Toc H.

John Morgan
Ruislip

Marks

Having read with interest the letter of H D Mills in your December issue, may I offer a correction to his facts?

He says that Mark 4 Manchester has a Staff Warden. This is incorrect. During my association with the Mark and by contact with members of long

the Use of Outc Resources

by Margaret McGettrick

Is the financial problem our real problem or is it merely a symptom of the real problem? We need to remind ourselves how the Movement started, grew, changed; why we decided to take on extra staff and whether we still need them. This is not a new or a simple problem and there is certainly no single, easy answer.

Toc H started and has continued for one reason only: to *preserve* and to *pass on* the spirit men met in the Old House. At the beginning, naturally, they set up residential and community clubs as like the Old House as possible ie the Marks. Very soon, and quite spontaneously, groups of men got together for the same purpose but without the bricks and mortar: these became Branches. Increasingly rapid social change has affected Toc H like everyone else. Needs changed and Marks declined, leaving more and more of the burden of 'preserving' and 'passing on' the spirit to the Branches. But they are affected by

change too. Toc H all over the world is worried about the increasing age of its Branch members and looking to ways of reaching the young. More and more, Branches have worked to 'preserve' the spirit and have failed to 'pass on' that spirit to new generations. This may be nobody's fault: it may well be a natural development in the light of great social change. But it is a fact.

We may have reached the stage where the traditional Branch and Mark will cease to be the main thrust of the Movement: they may be ready to make way for new expressions of Toc H more in keeping with today's attitudes, needs and methods — expressions like small community houses and larger, more active training centres.

Because of these developments, the vital role of 'passing on' the spirit of the Movement has passed in recent years to staff — both here and in other parts of the world like S Africa. Hence the increase in salaries over the recent inflationary years. Thus the Movement

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

association there is and for many years has been an honorary warden only at Mark 4. Maybe HQ is aware that in the past, members of staff have been based and operated from the Mark Office but they had not held the position of Warden. I hope this note will correct a very excellent contribution to Open Forum.

Bert Hill
Stockport

Thank You!

Recently six members of our Region, three from the West Midlands and three from South Wales, spent the day at Wendover.

We arrived at 10.20 am just in time for morning devotions. After an official welcome from Ken and Adrian, Frank Rice, acting as our guide for the day, took us around the offices where we were introduced to everyone and each one explained what that department does

and how it is done. With a break for lunch this went on until about 3.30 pm when we said our farewells and headed for home. I know we must have disrupted the work but everyone was most charming and helpful and I am sure we learned a lot: I know I did.

As I suffer from emphysema there was no smoking in the building for the whole of the day. As an ex-smoker I know what that must have meant to some people, and it made me feel like a VIP and particularly welcome. It would be physically impossible for everyone to go on a similar visit, parties should be limited to 12, but I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone if they get the chance.

My main impression of the day was how economy conscious everyone was and one of our party was amazed how few staff there were compared to when she visited Tower Hill some years ago.

To complete the day we called at Cuddesdon on the way home and I was given a conducted tour there. All in all a fantastic day and one I will always remember.

Thanks everyone.

Charlie Brown
Cardiff

Let's Move!

Thank you Adrian Dudman and Huw Gibbs for your writings in *Point Three* recently. In particular I found Huw Gibbs' article in the November issue very moving.

Surely the words, 'moving', 'movement', 'Movement' are words on which we would do well to ponder, and having pondered, act – or 'move' – though I doubt if at age 71 I am entitled to pontificate!

Bill Verrall
Thames Ditton

The tape issued last August produced a remarkable response – some 150 letters from Branches and individual members. Most comments were carefully thought out and all reflected members' real concern. All these views were put to Council in November and Council produced action guidelines for the new Central Executive Committee. The CEC

has now had its first meeting and made some far reaching policy decisions. We plan to produce a follow-up tape around Easter in which the CEC will spell out what action they are taking and indicate the fresh decision areas to be put to the 1982 Central Council. Meanwhile, we are publishing here two of the longer comments we received on the first tape.

– Editor

has seen a split of function with Branches struggling to 'preserve' and staff striving to 'pass on' the essence of Toc H. But both functions are vital if we are to continue to enrich the lives of others, and both require commitment.

It seems to me that for the foreseeable future the staff role is essential. If staff go now, 'passing on' will cease and Toc H will die a slow death. For the past ten years, funds to pay staff have been available from capital resources and the CEC has considered the deployment of staff in this kind of extension work a good use of those resources. If, as we are now being told, those resources are coming to an end, and it remains important that staff work continue, then we must look to more giving and more fund raising from members, whether or not they are in traditional Branches. Hence the current debate across the whole Movement.

Let us look at some of the implications for us, the members of this Movement. Any organisation with an aging

membership has people who can increase their personal giving because their family commitments have declined. But they also have a growing number of members living on fixed incomes or pensions whose value diminishes with the years. On balance, we can assume that, in this country, the means to increase giving substantially are probably there. The real question is whether we are willing to use what we can spare from our income and our time for this purpose. It is important to remember that most members are committed first and foremost to their own Branches and to their own communities: being personally involved in meeting local needs often restricts our sense of financial commitment to our local projects only. This, I think, is a mistake that has sprung up from the separation of Branch and staff function of which I have already spoken. In my experience, many Branch members are unaware of their responsibility to 'pass on' the spirit of the Movement and these would be greatly helped if they could see the staff doing more 'to preserve' what we all value ie supporting and assisting

Branches. This, however, would bring its own problems. We would demand more and more staff time; staff would be pressurised into taking on the dual role of 'preserving' and 'passing on'; we would see the staff as accountable to us because we were meeting the bill and we would increase the pressure on staff to produce results, ie to bring new members into our Branch. In short, there would be a danger that the whole thing would degenerate into a 'more members, more money' programme, putting increasing pressure on a demoralised staff.

What we are really talking about in this debate is *our* level of commitment to Toc H. If we are really committed to 'passing on' Toc H as well as 'preserving' it, we will find the money needed; if we are only pretending, then Toc H will deservedly die. We need to remember that Toc H is a journey and that we are all at different stages along the way. We must accept that real commitment can grow only as we ourselves grow to value the Toc H experience and to feel the need to pass it on to enrich the lives of others. I find it distressing to hear members demanding financial commitment at once from the young people staff are bringing to meet the Movement, long before they have reached the stage of the journey we claim to have reached ourselves.

I don't pretend to have a simple answer to the financial problem we are running into but I do think that it gives a sense of urgency to a number of fundamental questions about Toc H.

the Use of Our Resources/contd

At present, the 'passing on' of Toc H to a new generation is largely a staff role. It may be that, in future, new expressions such as community houses will take over that role. Meanwhile, can Branches take it on again? I believe they can, but only if our concept of a Branch is radically changed. The success here and overseas of the 'project' can teach us a lot about how to 'pass on' the message and point to reasons why our Branches have tended to be made up of one age group. There is no lack of interest or enthusiasm among young people but they are usually reluctant to accept a commitment to meet regularly as our Branch habits require. Those still studying and those with young families will willingly give occasional weekends or longer periods for a project that attracts them. Why won't Branches construct a programme of regular activities, plus occasional weekend and longer projects? Why don't Branches welcome a regular coming and going of young people who, if they are not made to feel tied, will move on and come back when they are able?

I am attracted by the new idea of 'community houses' (or 'mini-marks' as some have called them) and can see an important 'passing on' role for them. Sometimes they will require capital investment while we have some capital left. Often, they will not even need that — already we have examples of small, self supporting groups of this kind.

Whatever we do, we are going to continue to need staff. Have we the commitment to pay for them? If not, why not? How far should our local fund raising be held

for local projects and how far to help run the whole family? Are we personally giving what we can afford? Most organisations accept the need for a membership fee to support their central administration — why don't we? Have we really examined the possibility of national fund raising to cover the costs of staff? Do we need a full time fund raiser? Can we learn from our South African experience? There, our Charity Gift Shops are supporting staff salaries as well as meeting community needs. Each shop supports a local charity: the bulk of its profits go to that charity and the balance to Toc H South Africa, which would be bankrupt without them! They are all professionally run — each with a paid manageress and assistant helped by a rota of local volunteers.

There are many more questions which go far beyond fund raising. Do we need more literature, aiming at giving simple, straightforward explanations in modern terms of what we are and what we aim to do? Why aren't we capitalising more in Branches and among volunteers on our Toc H experience, so that we all help each other on the Toc H journey? What is happening to our Pilots? Should we re-examine their membership training role? Is our whole commitment to Toc H slipping away?

These are some of the hundreds of questions I have been asking myself since I first heard the 'Resources' tape. May I now suggest one or two of my answers?

1. While we still have capital, we should be prepared to invest in such new expressions of Toc H as community houses and training centres that reach outside the Movement.
2. Staff and Branches should work together to adapt Branch programmes and patterns to include such Toc H experiences

our activities as quickly as possible. But it's no use advocating expansion if one hasn't got a clue as to how it might be done.

The problem is simply that we have a large deficit and a shrinking membership. If we had ten times as many members, the problem of the deficit would disappear as income to HQ through members' contributions increased proportionately. But the public image of Toc H, where such an image exists at all, is pretty abysmal, and we seem to have reached the stage where almost every Toc H gathering bears a strong resemblance to a geriatric convention. We shall never increase both the quantity and the quality of our membership to any significant degree until we improve our feeble image in the eyes of the public, and to do this we need more, not less, competent and well trained field staff.

as weekend projects, regular jobs and longer holiday projects.

3. We should all — individually, and in our Branches — examine our Toc H consciences. Do we really understand what we are about and are we really committed to it? Let us look at our Branch literature, the role of our Pilot, the need for more training. Let us evaluate the jobs we do in helping others and carry out that evaluation in terms of how far we are really helping them and ourselves along the journey of life.
4. We should learn to understand the role of staff, work with them where we can and give them our support. This includes accepting a real measure of responsibility for the financial needs of the Movement.
5. We must give more from our own pockets and from our local fund-raising, but that needs supplementing from other sources if our local work is to carry on and to grow. Locally, we can plan, for example, one major social event a year — as ambitious an event as we can handle — specifically to raise funds for the Movement as a whole. And, of course, we must make full use of the Covenant Scheme and of Branch and personal loans to HQ at low interest rates or interest free. But we must, too, re-examine the whole field of national fundraising and here, the South African Gift Shops may give a start to our thinking.

In the end, as at the beginning, we are really talking about the reality of our personal commitment to 'passing on' what we have inherited: unless we do that, we won't 'preserve' it either.

2 From: Llanarmon-yn-Ial Branch

In considering the current deficit of £260,000 we feel that this demands drastic action and a complete re-think, and that to cut down on field staff and make a few economies here and there is not enough, and also undesirable. Administration staff are a different category, and it may well be possible to appoint honorary staff to take over the administrative work.

Our concern in Llanarmon is that in concentrating on cutting down and economising, we will create a shrinking, inward looking Movement whose problems will only increase from year to year. A sound maxim has always been that attack is the best form of defence, and paradoxical though it may seem, we firmly believe that this is the very time to do just that — to expand in every field of

In Llanarmon we also feel that we need a change of attitude and approach on the part of the CEC and our Principal Officers, who must, with fire in their bellies, regard Toc H and its work as a great crusading Movement, instead of a little old family business genteely pottering along towards extinction.

But to appoint the required number and calibre of field staff requires more money, and how is this to be found, or raised?

In this connection Llanarmon recommends and proposes that Toc H 'goes commercial' in a big way. This has been done by every other major charitable organisation both Christian and otherwise, and in no way detracts from that nature and quality of our work for the Lord. Indeed, if we read the parable of the talents, the Lord would appear to



Photos: Debbie Jones

The pictures were taken at the very successful mentally handicapped youngsters' holiday at Glan Morfa YMCA, Rhyl last year. The cost (over £2,000) was raised by Conwy District and via grants. The holiday included a disco and an uproarious pantomime with costumes borrowed from Theatre Clwyd.

Group Personal Accident Insurance

Are you covered for your Branch activities? The main benefits under our policy are:

	For Adults (no age limit)	For Juveniles (under 16 years)
Death	£2,000	£250
Loss of one or two eyes	£2,000	£2,000
Loss of one or two limbs		
Permanent total disablement		
Temporary total disablement	£20 per week payable up to 104 weeks. This is payable if employed, unemployed or retired.	

Branches which have not yet paid their premiums for 1982 are asked to do so without delay at the rate of 20p per head. A leaflet is available from Headquarters on request giving full information about this policy and also about the Public Liability Policy.



Photo: Hertfordshire Mercury

Two hundred disabled people and pensioners enjoyed 'Old Tyme Music Hall' recently. Staged by Ware Operatic Society, the free evening was organised by Toc H with the help of other local organisations. Hoddesdon Toc H hope to make it an annual event.

support such action. He will help us, but only if we get off our backsides and help ourselves.

Here we would particularly draw comparisons with just one other charitable organisation - the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

1. The RSPB cares for birds and has 450,000 members including 110,000 junior members, while Toc H cares for people and has but 10,000 members.
2. The RSPB produces an excellent quarterly magazine called 'Birds', usually about 86 glossy pages with superb coloured photographs and illustrations on almost every page and hundreds of advertisements. Compared with this *Point Three* is feeble in the extreme with about as much zest and verve as a wet hen, and of virtually no interest in

3. the public eye.
4. Every year the RSPB publishes its Christmas Sales Selection which has 48 pages of coloured photographs illustrating hundreds of high quality articles and books for sale. About all *Point Three* has to offer in this direction is the Toc H tie in various forms and the Toc H Diary, with or without pen.
5. In 1981 the RSPB Sales Department made a profit of £252,000, which would almost wipe out our deficit. How much did our sales make?
6. In 1981 the RSPB received £656,000 in legacies - how much did Toc H receive?
7. In 1981 the RSPB gained 46,671 new members (slightly fewer than in most years). What was the net increase, or decrease, in Toc H membership in 1981?

Need we say more? This kind of approach by the RSPB has caught the imagination of the public and won its support, and has paid very handsome dividends both in money and in membership.

In Llanarmon we believe that if Toc H doesn't adopt the same kind of approach to the public with the same degree of professionalism, then we might as well all go home.

At the moment we are trying to solve the problems of the 1980s with the methods of the 1920s and it just won't do. If commercial firms acted in this way they would become bankrupt in no time, and likewise Toc H must either come up to date and adopt the methods of the present day, or else fade away into oblivion.

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Ballestraat 1, Bruges, 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 3398 31/32.

Weymouth - Bed and breakfast £5.50, optional dinner £2.00. Close seafront and harbour. H & C. Shaver points. Teasmades. Guests colour TV lounge. Home cooking. Separate tables. Own keys. Full fire certificate. SAE. : Weyside Guest House, 1A Abbotsbury Road, Weymouth. Tel: 03057 72685.

Christian Singles Holidays; Weekend House parties; Tours (Devon, Scotland, USA, Switzerland, Holy Land). Friendship contacts. Group activities. Outings. Nationwide-Christian Friendship Fellowship, Edenthorpe, Doncaster.

Weymouth - Bed, breakfast and evening meal. Open all year including Christmas. Winter weekend breaks from £14.50. Weeks from £44. Bar, free parking. Coach parties and children welcome. Mrs J Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Telephone: 0305 785296.

Conwy, dinner and B & B. Weekends, mid-week bookings, ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Terms £50 per week. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, N Wales. Telephone: 049 263 2351.

Clacton - 6 berth Toc H Caravan, fully equipped. Excellent site facilities include pool, shops, children's playground and social centre. April/May/June £40 per week, July £45 per week, August £55 per week and September £40 per week. Full details from Mrs M Burgess, 6 Upper Park Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex. Tel: 0255-29428. SAE please.

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